



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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September 16, 2008

INDICTMENT RETURNED IN NOOSE CASE

PHILADELPHIA - Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice Grace Chung Becker, and Special Agent-in-Charge of the FBI Janice Fedarcyk, today announced that a federal grand jury returned a one count indictment¹ charging William Gould with interference with employment by threat of violence. The charge is a Class A misdemeanor. The indictment alleges that Gould placed a hangman's noose in an area where his African-American co-worker would find it, in an attempt to interfere with his co-worker's federally protected employment activity, and because the co-worker was African-American. Gould was charged by criminal complaint on September 2, 2008.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
William Gould	Philadelphia, PA	62

If convicted, Gould faces a maximum sentence of one year imprisonment, a one-year period of supervised release, a \$100,000 fine, and a \$25 special assessment.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Melanie E. Babb and Trial Attorney Eric L. Gibson from the Civil Rights Division.

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¹A indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.